

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:WHMARSH:VE

APPROVED BY EUR: JGLOWENSTEIN

EUR/WE:REBARBOUR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 164232

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, FR

SUBJECT: MITTERRAND TRIP TO THE U.S. SUGGESTED BY

DELISLE

1. DURING A CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN JULY 11 IV GRANTEE HENRY DELISLE BROUGHT UP THE POSSIBILITY OF A FALL VISIT TO THE U.S. BY FRANCOIS MITTERRAND. DELISLE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING "UNOFFICIALLY", HAD NO SPECIFIC MANDATE FROM MITTERRAND, AND THAT HE, DELISLE, HAD NOT COME TO THE U.S. TO "PREPARE A TRIP". NONETHELESS, IN DELISLE'S VIEW A MITTERRAND VISIT WOULD BE MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS. HOWEVER, MITTERRAND WOULD NEED ADVANCE ASSURANCES THAT HIS VISIT WOULD INCLUDE MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY. OTHERWISE MITTERRAND WOULD NOT ACCEPT AN INVITATION FROM THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS OCCASIONING A TRIP.

2. LOWENSTEIN THOUGHT THAT IF THE SECRETARY WERE IN WASHINGTON WHEN MITTERRAND WAS TO VISIT, A MEETING WOULD BE SCHEDULED. CONCERNING A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, ONCE THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED MITTERRAND'S PROPOSED DATES IT WOULD RECOMMEND THAT A MEETING BE SCHEDULED.

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3. DELISLE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT MITTERRAND WOULD PROCEED TO PLAN A VISIT WITHOUT AN "OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION" THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD SEE HIM. HOWEVER, WHEN HE RETURNED TO FRANCE NEXT MONTH DELISLE WOULD MEET WITH MITTERRAND AND EXPLAIN MATTERS TO HIM. IN CLOSING DELISLE SAID THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN EVENTUAL TRIP WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ROBERT PONTILLON, THE SOCIALIST PARTY'S DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. INGERSOLL

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